

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 062-2004



**To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission**

Date: March 18, 2004

**From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge".

Subject: Police Department's Surveillance of Hip-hop Artists

This Letter to the Commission is to advise the Mayor and City Commission of the Police Department's policy regarding surveillance procedures.

Recently, several local¹ and national media have reported that the Miami Beach Police Department engages in "... stake outs," and are "secretly watching... surveilling" hip-hop artists and industry moguls.²

Unequivocally, the City along with our Police Department have gone on the record articulating that while we have openly conducted major events planning initiatives, the Police Department does not surveil, stake out, nor photograph hip-hop artists that perform, visit, or reside in our City.

As an internationally and state accredited police service³, our Police Department complies with strict guidelines that ensure the legality and integrity of its intelligence function. This includes safeguards for ensuring information collected is limited to criminal conduct and relates to activities that present a threat to the community.⁴ Specifically, activities undertaken by the Police Department in the intelligence effort avoid the indiscriminate collection or distribution of information.⁵

Finally, as it relates to photographic and video surveillance, the Police Department's Strategic Investigations Unit adheres to procedures that prohibit the type of surveillance purported in the media.⁶ Chief De Lucca and I are available should you require any further information on this matter.

JMG:DD:RM:CP:JM:HDC:16

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¹ The Miami Herald, "Police secretly watching hip-hop artists," by Nicole White and Evelyn McDonnell, March 9, 2004.

² The Miami Herald, "Police tracking of rappers raises legal questions," by Jay Weaver, March 15, 2004.

³ Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies; Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

⁴ Standard 51.1.1, *Criminal Intelligence*, Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

⁵ *Id.*, at commentary.

⁶ Miami Beach Police Department Strategic Investigations Unit, *Collection of Intelligence Data Directive* 4.3, subsection A.3.